

Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishery Update

Below are preliminary landings estimates in metric tons (mt) and pounds (lb) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic shark commercial fisheries for the **1st trimester season of 2005** (January 1 through April 30). These landings estimates include landing reports received as of February 17, 2005. Any state landings and overharvests from this season will be totaled and counted against future quotas, as appropriate. Any underharvests will be carried over to the 2006 1st trimester season.

Species Group	Region	Closure date	Quota	Estimated landings	% Quota Taken
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED February 28	156.3 mt dw (344,579 lb dw)	40.13 mt dw (88,470 lb dw)	26
	South Atlantic	CLOSED February 15	133.3 mt dw (293,873 lb dw)	80.52 (177,514 lb dw)	60
	North Atlantic	April 30, 2005	6.3 mt dw (13,889 lb dw)	0.14 (308 lb dw)	<1
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead	Gulf of Mexico	To be determined, as necessary	13.9 mt dw (30,644 lb dw)	2.4 mt dw (5,291 lb dw)	17
	South Atlantic		213.5 mt dw (470,682 lb dw)	7.4 mt dw (16,314 lb dw)	<1
	North Atlantic		18.6 mt dw (41,056 lb dw)	0	0
Blue sharks	No regional quotas	To be determined, as necessary	91 mt dw (200,619 lb dw)	0	0
Porbeagle sharks			30.7 mt dw (67,681 lb dw)	.06 mt dw (132 lb dw)	<1
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle			162.7 mt dw (358,688 lb dw)	2.8 (6,173 lb dw)	2

A proposed rule regarding the 2005 second and third trimester season lengths and quotas will be published soon. A new 2005 commercial shark brochure will also be available soon. The 2005 SAFE report and Predraft of the Consolidated Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan is available on the HMS webpage at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>.

This FAX notice is a courtesy to Atlantic shark fishery interests to keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information, contact Chris Rilling or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-713-2347, or see the HMS webpage.

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